


Media Advisory

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VOTING SYSTEM PURCHASING PROCESS TIGHTENS

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Voting System Evaluation Committee has requested and advised the Office of State Purchasing to cancel the current Request For Proposal (RFP) regarding the purchase of a new voting system and to re-issue a new RFP.

The Evaluation Committee has determined that it is not in the best interest of the state or the proposer companies to move forward under the present RFP because the committee is unable to fairly evaluate the information submitted by the voting system companies. Five of seven state certified voting system companies have submitted bids for consideration: AccuPoll, Advanced, Diebold, Election Systems and Software, and Sequoia.

“This is a major league decision for the state, not only now, but for years to come,” Commissioner of Elections Angie LaPlace said. “The Evaluation Committee has made its determination in the best interest of the state based on the limited amount of information the companies provided in their proposals to the RFP.”

The nine person, confidential evaluation committee sought the advice of the Office of the State Treasurer and the Louisiana Attorney General with regard to the five proposer companies’ financial and operational stability and legal matters concerning their voting systems. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Justice has been asked to review the federal voting machine certifications. After careful consideration, both the Evaluation Committee and the Office of State Purchasing agreed to cancel the current RFP and to re-issue a new RFP with some additional requirements to obtain more accurate information on the financial and operational stability, legal matters, and pricing options of the companies which can be adequately evaluated.

According to LaPlace, the proposer companies were too vague in their bids saying, “Either the proposer companies chose not to provide us with the information we

requested or they did not understand what we were requesting.”

The decision on the purchase of a new voting system will be based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee. The committee is comprised of nine members who have elections experience in every area including balloting, registration, information technology and storage warehousing, and includes a member from the Clerks of Court Association, Registrars of Voters Association and the Attorney General's office.

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